

# COMPREHENSION CHALLENGES

I boarded the tour bus at Gettysburg with a feeling of excitement. Soon I was to actually see the places I had only read and heard about.

We started through the scenic battlefields. I leaned back in my seat and closed my eyes. As I listened to the tour guide, I began to envision each event. It was easy to picture the gray light of dawn, outlining fences, trees, and buildings. Thus, it had been July 1, 1863, when the battle of Gettysburg began. General Lee and Major General Meade became real to me. I listened to the tales of how they led and commanded their men in this battle.

We drove by the old cannons and heard the guide's vivid description. The battle fields, covered with smoke and dust, flashing guns, exploding shells, and soldiers storming over the hills were quickly brought into focus. As we passed the clump of chestnut oaks, I imagined Pickett's men there, using the oaks to guide them. Culp's Hill, Cemetery Hill, Little Round Top, Seminary Ridge, and McPherson's Woods. . . they took on a reality as I saw them and heard about the events that took place.

All too soon, the trip was over. But American history had taken on a new meaning for me.



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1. This story is about:
  - (a) American history
  - (b) A Gettysburg tour
  - (c) Cemetery Hill
  - (d) the generals
2. The tour was taken by:
  - (a) train
  - (b) car
  - (c) foot
  - (d) bus
3. What happened on July 1, 1863?
  - (a) Cemetery Hill Battle
  - (b) Pickett's men charged
  - (c) Battle of Gettysburg began
  - (d) Battle of Gettysburg ended
4. On the battlefields the guns:
  - (a) exploded
  - (b) flashed
  - (c) stormed
  - (d) were quite
5. Before the author's eyes were closed,
  - (a) the old cannons were passed
  - (b) Little Round Top appeared
  - (c) the clump of oaks were seen
  - (d) the tour bus was boarded
6. In this story storming means:
  - (a) raining
  - (b) blowing
  - (c) moving violently and angrily
  - (d) raging
7. Why had American history taken on a new meaning?
  - (a) I was back home.
  - (b) I boarded the bus.
  - (c) I toured Gettysburg.
  - (d) I saw General Lee.
8. What time of day did the battle of Gettysburg begin?
  - (a) morning
  - (b) night
  - (c) noon
  - (d) afternoon